

Notice of Allowability

| | | |
|--|---------------------|--|
| Application No. 10/622,388 Examiner Robert Mosser | Applicant(s) | |
| | GRAUZER ET AL. | |
| | Art Unit | |

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. This communication is responsive to the Amendment filed April 2nd, 2007.
2. The allowed claim(s) is/are 13-18 and 20-28.
3. Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) All
 - b) Some*
 - c) None
 of the:
 1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: _____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.
THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

4. A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
5. CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
 - (a) including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
 - 1) hereto or 2) to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
 - (b) including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.

Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
6. DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

1. Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2. Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3. Information Disclosure Statements (PTO/SB/08),
Paper No./Mail Date _____
4. Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit
of Biological Material
5. Notice of Informal Patent Application
6. Interview Summary (PTO-413),
Paper No./Mail Date 3/22/07
7. Examiner's Amendment/Comment
8. Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
9. Other _____.

EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with Mark A. Litman on May 22nd, 2007.

The application has been amended as follows:

In claim 13, insert the phrase, -52 card - after the word "complete" and before the word "deck" on the 5th line of the claim;

In claim 13, replace the term, - hands - as found on line 14 of the claim with the phrase "at least one hand";

Cancel claim 19;

In claim 28, insert the phrase, -previously unread - after the word "only" and before the word "spent" on the 2nd line of the claim; and

In claim 28, insert the phrase, -previously unread- after the word "not" and before the word "spent" on the 2nd line of the claim.

Reasons for Allowance

The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance: The prior art of record when considered alone or in combination does not fairly teach or suggest the method including the identification of a group of spent cards less then a 52 deck of cards only used in a round of play, the identification of the composition of card hands included the group of spent cards, the movement of the cards one at a time from the bottom of a stack of spent cards, and the transmission of a signal identifying the cards as identified to a processor.

The previously applied prior art of record Purton, (WO 00/51076), and Soltys et al (US 6,638,161) though teaching aspects of the invention as previously applied fail to teach the claimed invention as a whole due to issues of improper hindsight. Specifically though the Purton device teaches the inclusion of the method step directed to the movement of the cards, the device of Soltys obviates the need for this feature through not requiring the movement of the cards. Hence it is the Examiner's determination that while the structure of the claimed invention falls within the realm of obviousness through the combination of Purton and Soltys, that the method as claimed is not fairly taught nor suggested by Purton and Soltys and further that the presently claimed method could only be reconstructed with reliance on the references of Purton and Soltys through incorporation of improper hindsight.

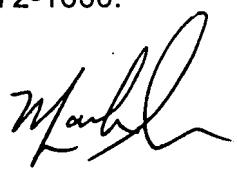
Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Robert Mosser whose telephone number is (571)-272-4451. The examiner can normally be reached on 8:30-4:30 Monday-Thursday.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Robert Pezzuto can be reached on (571) 272-6996. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

RM
RM
May 22nd, 2007



MARK SAGER
PRIMARY EXAMINER



IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant: Attila Grauzer, et al. Examiner: Robert Mosser
Serial No. 10/622,388 Group Art Unit: 3711
Filed: July 17, 2003 Docket No. PA0885.ap.US
Title: SMART DISCARD RACK FOR PLAYING CARDS

MAIL STOP ISSUE FEE

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

- Form PTOL-85B (1pg) and Shuffle Master, Inc. check no.: 803859 for \$1730.00
- Communication Re: Issue Fee Transmittal
- Copy of Notice of Allowance and Issue Fee Due
- Notice of Allowability, Examiner's Amendment and Reasons for Allowance
- Examiner-Initiated Interview Summary sheet
- Determination of Patent Term Adjustment
- Transmittal Sheet
- Return postcard

Please consider this a PETITION FOR EXTENSION OF TIME for sufficient number of months to enter these papers if an additional extension of time is deemed necessary by the Office. Authorization is hereby given to charge Deposit Account Number 50-1391 if such additional extension is necessary.

MARK A. LITMAN & ASSOCIATES, P.A.

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Edina, MN 55435 (952-832-9090)

By: Mark A. Litman
Atty: Mark A. Litman
Reg. No. 26,390

CERTIFICATE UNDER 37 C.F.R. 1.8: The undersigned hereby certifies that this Transmittal Letter and the paper, as described herein, are being deposited in the United States Postal Service, as first class mail, with sufficient postage, in an envelope addressed to: Mail Stop Issue Fee, Commissioner for Patents, PO Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450 on 30 August 2007.

Mark A. Litman
Name

Mark A. Litman
Signature

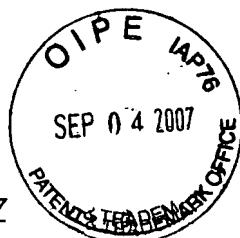
| | | |
|---|---------------------------|---------------------|
| Examiner-Initiated Interview Summary | Application No. | Applicant(s) |
| | 10/622,388 | GRAUZER ET AL. |
| | Examiner Robert Mosser | Art Unit 3714 |

All Participants:

(1) Robert Mosser.

(2) Mark A. Litman.

Date of Interview: 22 May 2007



Status of Application: Pending after entry of RCE

(3) _____

(4) _____

Time: 2:10 pm EST

Type of Interview:

Telephonic
 Video Conference
 Personal (Copy given to: Applicant Applicant's representative)

Exhibit Shown or Demonstrated: Yes No

If Yes, provide a brief description:

Part I.

Rejection(s) discussed:

None

Claims discussed:

Pending claims 13, 19, and 28.

Prior art documents discussed:

Part II.

SUBSTANCE OF INTERVIEW DESCRIBING THE GENERAL NATURE OF WHAT WAS DISCUSSED:

See Continuation Sheet

Part III.

It is not necessary for applicant to provide a separate record of the substance of the interview, since the interview directly resulted in the allowance of the application. The examiner will provide a written summary of the substance of the interview in the Notice of Allowability.
 It is not necessary for applicant to provide a separate record of the substance of the interview, since the interview did not result in resolution of all issues. A brief summary by the examiner appears in Part II above.

(Examiner/SPE Signature)

(Applicant/Applicant's Representative Signature – if appropriate)

Continuation of Substance of Interview including description of the general nature of what was discussed:
Authorization was given by the Applicant's representative to amend claim 13 to clarify that a complete deck of cards refers to a "complete 52 card deck of cards" as presented in step (b) of the same claim, and to amend step (e) of claim 13 to replace the term "hand" with "at least one hand". The Applicant's representative further authorized the cancellation of claim 19 to remedy issues regarding the order of operation of the claimed invention and the amendment of claim 28 to clarify that only the "previously unread" spent cards are read.